

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 144

By Dean

A RESOLUTION to recognize Catherine Neely on the occasion of her retirement as volleyball coach at East Ridge High School.

WHEREAS, this body is honored to recognize those coaches throughout the State who have spent years in unflagging pursuit of victory and inspiring a countless number of Tennessee's students to succeed, both on and off the playing field; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable coach is Catherine Neely, who over the past fifty years, has established herself as one of the most successful volleyball coaches in the State; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely began coaching volleyball and basketball at East Ridge High School in 1964 and has enjoyed an extremely successful career; and

WHEREAS, through her coaching career, Coach Neely led her teams to 1,395 wins in volleyball and 625 wins in basketball, despite retiring as a basketball coach in 2007; and

WHEREAS, her successful career as a volleyball coach has led to 18 District Championships, 17 Regional Championships, 17 Sectional Championships, 17 State Appearances, and 2 State Championships; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely also achieved 8 District Championships in basketball; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely's efforts have produced numerous All-Stars at every level of competition; and

WHEREAS, her successes have led to numerous coaching honors and recognitions, both locally and nationally; her local honors include both the East Ridge High School gym and the Chattanooga Best of Preps Volleyball Award being named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, at the state level, Coach Neely was named Tennessee Coach of the Year in 2005 and Tennessee Athletic Coaches' Association District Volleyball Coach of the Year in 1984-1986, 1988-1989, 1995-1998, and 2001-2008; she was also honored for her coaching

talents in basketball, being named TACA District Basketball Coach of the Year in 1985, 1990, and 1995-1998; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely has also been honored on the national level; some of her honors include being named the National Volleyball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of High Schools in 2006 and receiving the U.S.A. Volleyball Lifetime Achievement Award at the U.S.A. Volleyball National Convention in 2008; and

WHEREAS, she has also been inducted into numerous Hall of Fames, including the TSSAA Hall of Fame in 1993, the Chattanooga Area Sports Hall of Fame in 1996, and the Tennessee State Sports Hall of Fame in 2000; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her coaching career, Coach Neely has also taught at East Ridge High School for 33 years, 21 of those years spent as Department Chairperson; she was named Hamilton County Teacher of the Year in 1996 and 1997; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely became Athletic Director at East Ridge High School in 1990 and intends to continue in that position despite her retirement from coaching; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely has enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, William, for 53 years; their partnership has produced one son, Allen and wife Tammy, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Catherine Neely has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and students alike; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Catherine Neely on the occasion of her retirement from coaching, fondly looking back over the many successful years she spent as a volleyball and basketball coach at East Ridge High School and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.